

# How Good Is the Team?

**State Department Organization Called Competent if Given Strong Leadership**

©PYRGHT By JAMES MCGINN

(Special to The New York Times)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10—Worked closely with the assistant secretaries of state and the foreign service offices.

They like and respect him, and accordingly, the assistant secretaries are likely to have more influence now than they did in the past, though some of them—notably Assistant Secretary for Far Eastern Affairs Walter S. Robertson—were powerful under Secretary Dulles.

Assistant Secretary Merchant is definitely in this class. In the last six years, with the exception of a respite as United States Ambassador to Canada he has probably been closer to Secretary Dulles on more subjects than any other man in the department.

What is hard to calculate is how it will operate without Secretary Dulles, who believed in do-it-yourself diplomacy, and therefore did not give much scope to his top political assistants or to the once-powerful departmental policy planning staff.

On political questions, the burden will now fall primarily on four men: the Acting Secretary of State, Christian A. Herter; the Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Robert Murphy; the Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs (whose advisory responsibilities extend well beyond Europe) Livingston Merchant; and the counselor of the department, G. Frederick Reinhardt.

On economic questions the Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, C. Douglas Dillon, will be the dominant figure, and the likelihood is that his influence will now increase in the political field as well.

#### Role of Herter

The administration of the department will be left primarily to Deputy Under Secretary Loy W. Henderson, though here again, as in the case of Assistant Secretary Merchant, he will undoubtedly be brought into policy matters, beyond the confines of his title, especially in the Near and Middle East.

From now on this is likely to be more of a "team" operation than it has been in the past. Much more than his predecessor, Herbert Hoover Jr., Acting Secretary Herter, who was himself a Foreign Service officer long before he was in the Congress or in the governorship of Massachusetts, has

#### COPYRIGHT

If it is possible too, that policy planning staff, once useful under George F. Kennan and Paul F. Nitze, will be more in the future than it was in the past.

The general impression is that it is not staffed as now as in its early years by Secretaries of State George Marshall and Dean G. Acheson.

Its chief is Assistant Secretary Gerard C. Smith, a competent officer who came into the department as an atomic energy policy expert. The executive secretary is a veteran officer, Carlton Savage.

The other members are Elmer

bert Mathews, George Morgan, Henry Owen, Spencer Barnes, Henry C. Ramsey, Howard H. Furnas, and William H. Taft, 8d, former United States Ambassador to Elie, who is a son of the late Senator, Robert A. Taft.

All these men are likely to come under closer scrutiny during Mr. Dulles' convalescence, for Mr. Herter, if he is given the strong support of the President, is likely to make a major effort to mobilize the energies and considerable talents of the whole department.

#### More Consultations Likely

The expectation here is that he will work "through channels," as he usually does, which means that the primary responsibility for carrying on Secretary Dulles' work will fall on Mr. Herter.

Even if this happens, however, the chances are that Henry Cabot Lodge, United States Ambassador to the United Nations; Allen W. Dulles, Richard Bissell, and Robert Amory Jr. of the Central Intelligence Agency, and Gordon Gray, Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, will be consulted more by the President on foreign policy than they have been in the past.